

moving along, those are taking goods that have been produced across this Nation and delivering them to the points of use or marketing and that those truckers are experiencing extremely high cost increases because they demand a lot of energy.

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They demand a lot of diesel, and the price of diesel is extraordinarily high right now.

So we have tremendous downward pressure on our economy. It is one of the reasons that we are suggesting that the Federal taxes could be deleted for a period of 6 months to give us a chance to evaluate just what the effect of this storm Katrina is going to be, but in addition, it allows us to begin to have this debate on how complex do we have to make it for ourselves to build new refineries.

I think we know the elements of refining that would create difficulties in our environment. No one is going to watch as our environment is spoiled, but right now, we are limiting ourselves arbitrarily, even though we know the safety standards that we need to implement. I, for one, feel like we can do both. We can have safety and create new refineries at the same point. Likewise, we have limited drilling for the same purpose. I think that we can drill in an environmentally safe manner, and we are going to either have to do that or watch as the price of our energy increases. Katrina has simply accentuated the pressures that already existed inside our economy, and it is time for us, as a Nation, to look at the effects of our decisions in the past.

I would like to conclude my statements this evening by saying that, again, our hearts and our prayers go out to the people who have been suffering tremendously from this storm. We have seen the hearts of the Nation open up and accept these people who have been dislocated and have been taken in all across the Nation, into homes and into churches and into the Astrodome in Texas. I think that speaks so well of the compassion of this Nation and of our willingness to give of ourselves at a point where someone else is suffering.

I think that in the days ahead we are going to see this Nation pool its resources, to pool its ingenuity together. We are going to see people really begin to buckle down to approach the problems that we, as a Nation, are facing right now, and in a unified fashion, I think that we will see New Orleans cleaned up. I think that we will see a rebuilding effort across the entire Gulf Coast region. I think that we will see those economies come back into those States and communities that have been devastated by these current situations.

Again, we, as a Nation, owe it to ourselves to understand the full ramifications of what we face, and we owe it to ourselves to reinvest in those areas that have been so prolific and are so important to this Nation's economy.

New Orleans not only has the refining capacity, they not only have the offshore platforms through Louisiana, offshore from Mississippi and Texas, but they process many, many of our grain crops on the way outbound as we export them. Many of the imports coming in come through New Orleans. It is an extremely vital and important part of this Nation, and I join with the rest of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle saying that we feel like that the days ahead will see the most magnificent responses to some of the most deeply felt problems this Nation has ever seen, from either a natural or unnatural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair for allowing me to address the situations that have occurred in the Gulf Coast.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BERKLEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. CARDIN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. MALONEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness in the family.

Mr. MELANCON (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of district business relating to Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of district business relating to Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. CONAWAY (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. PICKERING (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of Hurricane Katrina.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. MCKINNEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CLYBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today and September 7.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and September 7 and 8.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today and September 7.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and September 7 and 8.

Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, September 8.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, September 7.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, September 7.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 172. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of all contact lenses as medical devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 501. An act to provide a site for the National Women's History Museum in the district of Columbia; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3645. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations to meet immediate needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on September 2, 2005 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 3645. Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 422, I move that